

From: Paula Butler [mailto:paulakb7@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:04 PM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Packages under Review

To Whom it may Concern,

Having lived in the state of California for nearly all of my life, I hold very strong feelings for the MLPA packages under review currently. I am a diver and enjoy diving the waters in and around Monterey and Carmel as often as possible, most particularly in the Cannery Row/Breakwater area to Lovers Point or Hopkins Marine Station. This area is not just one exemplifying our extraordinary temperate ecosystem but the heartbeat of the Central Coast.

The Monterey Peninsula is in my opinion a tourist destination not just because of the historical ambiance of Cannery Row itself but the coastline which is California's strongest and most beautiful asset. After morning dives it is a joy to spend hours along the strip of our coast made famous by John Steinbeck in the restaurants, shops and occasionally the Aquarium, where strides are made each day increasing our understanding of the worlds oceans.

It is easy to understand how non-consumptive scuba diving has grown into an industry generating over \$100 million annually in our immediate area alone. Many of us purchase equipment from the more than 50 family owned dive related businesses in and around Monterey adding to the local economy. As an underwater photographer, my preference is to purchase all the photo equipment I can possibly afford at Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo on Cannery Row as well as patronize Monterey Bay Dive Center and Aquarius1 & 11 dive shops.

Please add my voice in favor of package 2R or secondarily package 3R offering State Marine Reserve status for the Monterey Carmel areas. I most strongly support package 2R because it sets aside 13% of the Central Coast in State Marine reserves. This package offers protection to the Monterey/Carmel coastline made famous by John Steinbeck, home to the world class Monterey Bay Aquarium and Hopkins Marine Station. I, like so many am attracted to this strip of coastline because of its extraordinary beauty and remarkable heritage one that should be preserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,
/paula butler

--